



<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	OPERATIONS
<b>POLICY/PROCEDURE</b>	PROHIBITED ITEMS AND SEARCH POLICY
<b>DATE OF ISSUE</b>	May 2022
<b>DATE OF REVIEW</b>	May 2023
<b>VERSION</b>	1

Lincoln City Football Club is committed to ensuring that all supporters have an enjoyable experience at the LNER Stadium and we take the safety of our supporters extremely seriously. Working in partnership with key stakeholders including Lincolnshire Police and other safety and regulatory bodies, we constantly review our safety and security procedures to help ensure the safety of all supporters, visitors, and staff at the LNER Stadium.

## **1. Search Policy**

### **1.1 At the Turnstile**

Any supporter attending the LNER Stadium may be subjected to a screening process prior to entering the stadium which may include a physical and/or visual search. Please do not be alarmed by these security measures, they are in place to ensure that the LNER Stadium is a safe environment for everyone. Please be patient while our staff carry out these necessary security checks. We aim to have measures and processes in place to keep queuing time to a minimum, however, in order to ensure supporters can gain access to the LNER stadium before kick-off. In order to allow sufficient time to undergo the screening process, we recommend that you arrive at your turnstile entrance at least 30 minutes before the start of the match (turnstile are usually open 90 minutes before kick-off).

### **1.2 Bag Policy**

Lincoln City has a restricted bag policy at the LNER Stadium. Any bag must adhere to the guidelines below, or it will not be permitted into the stadium. All bags will be subjected to a physical and/or visual search as you approach the turnstiles.

We have restrictions on the size of bags permitted inside the stadium. Bags should not exceed 30cm x 30cm and any bag which exceeds this size will not be permitted.

Exceptions to the Bag Policy will only be made for bags containing essential medical provisions/equipment or baby changing items which you may require during the match. For small items such as medication, inhalers, epi-pens, and blood sugar testing kits please bring these in the smallest bag possible so it is quick and easy to search at the turnstile. For any larger items such as crutches, please email our Disability Liaison Officer at [dlo@theredimps.com](mailto:dlo@theredimps.com) with details of the items and your entrance number so that we can ensure that our security teams are aware in advance.

Our Bag Policy has been developed to ensure a safe environment for all. Those choosing to bring a bag to the stadium, which meets the above criteria, should be aware that entry may be delayed whilst undergoing screening.

All screening is voluntary, but entry will be refused to those who refuse to be searched.

The Club does not operate a "left luggage service" at the Stadium.

## **2. Prohibited Items**

Nothing matters more than your safety and the safety of others. That is why we ask that only certain items are brought into the Stadium. Please make sure you are not bringing anything you shouldn't before arriving.

What items **CAN** I bring into the Stadium?

- Clear plastic bottles of water 500ml or less, with the top removed
- Crutches and walking aids



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- Drinking flasks (upon proof that the contents do not contain alcohol)
- Non-offensive flags or banners measuring less than 2.5m x 1m (see flags and banners section below)
- Small bags that meet our bag policy (see above)
- Small bottles of hand gel
- Small fold-up umbrellas

What items **CAN'T** I bring into the Stadium?

- Aerosols
- Air horns
- Alcohol
- Animals (except service dogs and assistance dogs)
- Bags or suitcases which don't meet our Bag Policy (see above)
- Cameras, camcorders, and other recording equipment
- Dangerous or hazardous items or other items that compromise public health and safety
- Drones
- Flags, signs, or banners that do not conform to our flags and banners policy (see below).
- Glass containers
- Illegal substances
- Knives, blades, darts, firearms, or weapons of any kind
- Laptops and tablets
- Laser pens or other devices
- Musical instruments (including cases) and other devices capable of causing a disturbance or nuisance
- Plastic containers over 500ml
- Poles and sticks
- Pushchairs, buggies, or prams
- Pyrotechnics, i.e. fireworks, flares, explosives, or ammunition
- Smoke or gas canisters
- Tools
- Umbrellas (except small fold-up umbrellas)

Please note that this list may change without notice.



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Any person in possession of such items will be asked to surrender them at the turnstiles.

Any article which is deemed to be offensive/abusive, compromises public safety, or might be used as a weapon will be confiscated and reported to the police.

### **3. Flags and Banners**

We welcome supporters who wish to bring flags to matches at our stadium.

Flags should be no more than 250cm in size at their widest or longest section and flagpoles must be no greater than 100cm in length.

Flags must not obstruct gangways, access routes, exits and entrances, health and safety signage, advertising signage, and stairways.

In order to ensure smooth access and display of your flag, we advise that you have it pre-approved. You can do this by emailing our Supporter Services team at [tickets@theredimps.com](mailto:tickets@theredimps.com) a minimum of one week prior to bringing the flag to a match.

We reserve the right to deny permission or confiscate flags if they are above an acceptable size, compromise public safety, or obscure someone's view or a camera position.

The Club has always considered that a football match is a time to show allegiance to a football team first and foremost. A football match is not an appropriate arena to display flags of any political or religious affiliation or anything that could possibly be considered inflammatory – this can include national flags during times of political conflicts, campaigns, or issues.

We shall liaise with other clubs concerning the application of our policy at away matches.

### **4. Smoking Policy**

- The LNER Stadium is a no-smoking stadium. This includes the use of electronic cigarettes.
- Designated smoking zones are available at various locations on the stadium footprint.
- Supporters will not be allowed to leave and return to the stadium footprint.